

Claims as Amended

A 1 1. A composition of matter intended for topical use in preventing or treating alopecia, or maintaining healthy hair, said composition of matter comprising:

5 a) an active compound selected from the group consisting of: a pharmaceutically or cosmetically effective topical amount of a 5a-reductase inhibitor and minoxidil, and

b) a non-retinoid penetration enhancer, said penetration enhancer present in a concentration sufficient to aid said active compound in penetrating the skin surface to a depth of approximately the depth of hair bulbs.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said active compound comprises a 5a-reductase inhibitor.

10 3. The composition of claim 1, wherein said active compound comprises minoxidil.

4. The composition of claim 3, further comprising a 5a-reductase inhibitor.

5. The composition of claim 4, wherein the ratio of 5a-reductase inhibitor to minoxidil in the composition is approximately 0.5 grams : 1 gram.

A 2 15 7. The composition of claim 5, wherein said 5a-reductase inhibitor is present in a concentration of 0.5 grams per 4 ounces of finished liquid.

8. An article of manufacture comprising the composition of claim 4, labeled for topical cosmetic use in maintaining normal, healthy hair.

9. An article of manufacture comprising the composition of claim 4, labeled for topical pharmaceutical use in preventing or treating a disease.

20 10. The article of manufacture of claim 9, wherein said disease comprises alopecia.

11. The composition of claim 4, further comprising a sunscreen in an amount effective to screen radiation.

12. A method for preventing or treating alopecia, or maintaining healthy hair, said method comprising:

25 a) Topically administering an active compound selected from the group consisting of: a pharmaceutically or cosmetically effective topical amount of a 5a-reductase inhibitor and minoxidil, together with

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b) a non-retinoid penetration enhancer, said penetration enhancer present in a concentration sufficient to aid said active compound in penetrating the skin surface to a depth of approximately the depth of hair bulbs.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said active compound comprises a 5a-reductase inhibitor.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein said active compound comprises minoxidil.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said active compound further comprises a 5a-reductase inhibitor.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the ratio of 5a-reductase inhibitor to minoxidil in the composition is approximately 0.5 grams : 1 gram.

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18. The method of claim 16, wherein said 5a-reductase inhibitor is present in a concentration of 0.5 grams per 4 ounces of finished liquid.

19. The method of claim 15, labeled for topical cosmetic use in maintaining normal, healthy hair.

20. The method of claim 15, labeled for topical pharmaceutical use in preventing or treating a disease.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said disease comprises alopecia.

22. The method of claim 15, further comprising a sunscreen in an amount effective to screen radiation.

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